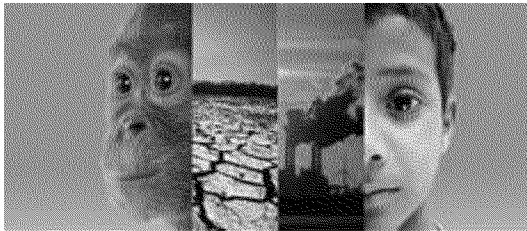


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**From:** Turley, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 2:35:32 PM  
**Subject:** Cross-Cutting Issues News for August 7, 2015



## Cross-Cutting Issues News for August 7, 2015

**Bloomberg BNA** Daily Environment Report™

### *Climate Regulation*

#### N.C. Senate Aims to Limit Carbon Reduction Options

North Carolina's response to federal carbon dioxide reduction rules would be restricted if the state Senate gets its way....

## *Endangered Species*

### OMB Gets Critical Habitat for Endangered Species Rule

A final rule to revise regulations on designation of critical habitat for endangered species has been sent to the White House Office of Management and Budget for interagency review....

## *Energy*

### DOE, Labor Unions Partner on Clean Power Plan Jobs

The Energy Department Aug. 6 announced a partnership with three large labor unions to establish a working group to promote job creation as states develop their compliance plans under the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power...

## *Insurance*

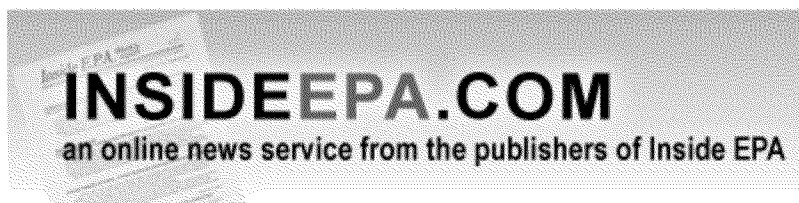
### Insurer on Hook for Emission-Reduction Costs

A power company's costs of installing technology to reduce emissions under a consent decree are recoverable from its insurer as remediation costs, the Middle District of Louisiana ruled Aug. 5 (Louisiana Generating LLC v. Illinois Union...

## *International Climate*

### Resolution Asks Senate to Back Pope's Climate Call

Democratic senators from across the religious spectrum called on their colleagues Aug. 5 to support a "sense of the Senate" resolution backing Pope Francis's call for world action to combat climate change....



Inside EPA's **Weekly Report**, 08/07/2015

<http://insideepa.com/newsletters/inside-epa>

## Latest News

### **EPA Floats Plan To Preclude Some Adverse Air Rulings From National Effect**

EPA is proposing to revise its years-old "regional consistency" policy mandating uniform application of Clean Air Act requirements across all its regions in order to preclude adverse appellate court rulings that address local or regionally applicable regulations from having to apply nationally, according to a new proposed rule.

# Greenwire

## **POLITICS:**

### **Franken resolution brings pope into Hill's climate fracas**

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Minnesota Democrat Al Franken introduced a Senate resolution yesterday endorsing Pope Francis' encyclical declaring climate change a human-induced threat that requires urgent action.

Co-sponsored by five Democrats, including presidential candidate Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Franken's measure seeks to put members on the record affirming not only the science of man-made warming but the view that current consumption trends are "unsustainable" and "immediate action must be taken to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit the deleterious effects" of warming.

The resolution draws from key passages of the pope's letter. Among them: "If present trends continue, this century may well witness extraordinary climate change and an unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequences for all of us" (Greenwire, June 17).

The resolution comes ahead of Francis' scheduled address late next month to a joint session of Congress and a White House meeting with President Obama. The president has said climate change will be on the agenda for that meeting, including discussion of the new Clean Power Plan.

The pope's Washington, D.C., trip is likely to coincide with efforts in the House and Senate to kill Obama's emissions rule for existing power plants (E&E Daily, Aug. 4).

U.S. EPA finalized the rule Monday, together with regulations for new and modified power plants, which is the likely cornerstone of U.S. commitment at international climate negotiations this December in Paris.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which was involved in the high-profile rollout of the encyclical, applauded EPA's action.

"A new national standard to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants is an important step forward to protect the health of all people, especially children, the elderly, and poor and vulnerable communities, from harmful pollution and the impacts of climate change," said Archbishop Thomas

Wenski, who heads the group's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, in a statement Monday.

## **FEDERAL WORKFORCE:**

### **Young staffers getting scarcer, less happy -- report**

Robin Bravender, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Young federal employees don't like their jobs as much as their older counterparts.

According to a new study from the Partnership for Public Service and Deloitte Consulting LLP, government workers younger than 30 are "slightly less satisfied" than all other employees.

That could spell trouble for the federal workforce as the government looks to groom its next generation of leaders.

"The greatest challenge for federal agencies is recruiting and retaining younger employees, those who represent the foundation of the workforce in the years ahead," says the report. The nonprofit partnership conducts an annual "Best Places to Work" survey ranking government offices.

The report also found that the percentage of young workers has plummeted in recent years. Federal staffers younger than 30 dropped from 9.1 percent of the workforce in 2010 to 6.6 percent in 2015. That's meant a steady reduction of more than 45,000 employees younger than 30 between 2010 and 2015.

The percentage of federal workers younger than 25 dropped from "an already low" 2 percent to "an alarming" 0.9 percent during that time, the study says.

Employees are also reporting dissatisfaction with their agencies' recruitment and training.

In 2014, only about 39 percent of federal employees said their teams can attract the right people. And only about 47 percent of those surveyed said they were satisfied with the training they receive -- a number that's fallen nearly 9 points since 2005.

Government workers have also been reporting declining satisfaction with how effective they feel on the job. About 54.2 percent of federal employees said they feel their talents are used well in the workplace -- a drop of 8.7 points since 2003.

Overall, morale has been sagging throughout the federal workforce in recent years amid budget cuts and political attacks. According to the latest "Best Places to Work" survey, overall satisfaction and commitment fell to 56.9 points out of 100 in 2014, the lowest number since the nonprofit started its annual survey in 2003 (Greenwire, Dec. 9, 2014).

## **PUBLIC LANDS:**

### **Tribes feel excluded from Bishop's Utah plan**

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Southwest tribes say they've been excluded from a legislative effort by Republican Utah Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz to settle decadeslong disputes over the protection and use of public lands in eastern Utah.

The Bears Ears Coalition, which includes the Hopi, Navajo, Ute Indian, Ute Mountain Ute and Zuni tribes, urged the congressmen to include in their bill a proposal to protect 1.9 million acres of tribal ancestral lands in San Juan County from future energy development.

The bill by Bishop and Chaffetz, which has yet to be introduced, could cover tens of millions of acres of federal lands in eastern Utah, designating lands for wilderness, off-highway vehicles, mountain biking and energy development, as well as for a major land exchange with the state of Utah.

Negotiations in the lawmakers' Public Lands Initiative have involved more than 100 stakeholders and have been ongoing for years.

"Despite more than two years of dialogue with local stakeholders, we are concerned that the Public Lands Initiative process and San Juan County have thus far failed to reach out to, consult, and respond to feedback from Tribes within or outside of Utah," the coalition wrote in a [letter](#) to Bishop and Chaffetz signed by Hopi, Navajo, Ute Indian and Zuni tribal officials.

While San Juan County has advanced a proposal to the lawmakers' offices, it "ignores tribal input," the coalition wrote.

The coalition wants a Bears Ears national conservation area included in the Bishop-Chaffetz bill. It's asking the Obama administration to consider protecting the 1.9 million acres as a national monument if the legislative process fails. The proposal would protect "shared ancestral lands of more than one dozen tribes" that are sacred to American Indians throughout the Southwest. The name "Bears Ears" is a reference to two buttes rising from Cedar Mesa.

"Such a designation must identify conservation of the area's irreplaceable cultural resources as the primary purpose, and include strong conservation standards including a full mineral withdrawal while allowing Native American traditional uses to continue," the coalition said.

Bishop said that his initiative has been inclusive and that everyone who wanted to participate "had a seat" at the table, according to a [report](#) from *KSL.com*. He said he's open to including protections for Bears Ears in his legislation.

The tribal coalition's letter came days after Utah Gov. Gary Herbert (R) sent a letter to President Obama urging him not to designate any national monuments in Utah, including Bears Ears, and to instead defer to the Bishop-Chaffetz legislative effort ([E&ENews PM](#), Aug. 3).

"A unilateral monument designation in Utah will only serve to inflame passion, spur divisiveness and ensure perpetual opposition," Herbert wrote.

Those who oppose national monuments in Utah suspect the Obama administration may be preparing one for Bears Ears. They point to a meeting in mid-July at Bears Ears hosted by tribal officials that included Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Steve Ellis and the Agriculture Department's Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer.

Washburn later wrote in a blog that the United States has a trust responsibility to tribes that includes

protection of sacred places.

The last major national monument in Utah, the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, was designated by President Clinton in 1996. It blocked development of a major coal reserve and enraged elected officials in the state.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was asked about the Antiquities Act yesterday in a meeting with the editorial board of Deseret Media Cos. She said there are no plans to designate a monument in Utah under the "cloak of darkness," according to the *KSL.com* report.

"There hasn't been any monument designation that President Obama has done that hasn't had a pretty open, public process," Jewell said. "It is an open, transparent process we have been engaged in all along."

## OVERSIGHT:

### House chairman presses for OPM official's ouster

Robin Bravender, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

*This story was updated at 1:19 p.m. EDT.*

The House's top GOP watchdog today doubled down on calls for a senior administration official to be fired after a massive government data breach and allegations that she meddled with investigations.

Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) sent a letter to the Office of Personnel Management's acting chief, Beth Cobert, saying he believes the agency's Chief Information Officer Donna Seymour is "unfit" to do her job.

Chaffetz previously told President Obama in June that he had lost confidence in Seymour's abilities after she failed to prevent the data breach earlier this year in which personal information for millions of federal workers was stolen. Chaffetz had also called on Obama to remove then-OPM Chief Katherine Archuleta, who resigned last month (*Greenwire*, July 10).

The chairman told Cobert today he is "deeply troubled" that Seymour remains on the job more than a month later.

Chaffetz's concerns have been amplified, he said, by a July 22 memo to Cobert from OPM's Office of the Inspector General stating that actions taken by Seymour's office had "interfered with, and thus hindered, the OIG's work. Further, the [Office of the Chief Information Officer] has repeatedly provided the OIG with inaccurate or misleading information."

"It has been two weeks since the IG informed you of these serious transgressions and Ms. Seymour is still in a position of trust at the agency," Chaffetz wrote today. "Ms. Seymour has already failed the American people with her inability to secure OPM's networks, and to learn that her office may be actively interfering with the work of the Inspector General only adds insult to injury."

OPM officials defended Seymour today after Chaffetz's calls for her ouster.

During Cobert's first weeks as OPM's acting director, she has observed the team -- including the Office of

the Chief Information Officer -- working "incredibly hard to enhance the security of our information technology systems and support those who have been affected by the recent cybersecurity incidents," OPM spokesman Samuel Schumach said in a statement today.

"As indicated in previous statements, since Ms. Seymour's arrival at OPM in late 2013, OPM has undertaken an aggressive effort to upgrade the agency's cybersecurity posture, adding numerous tools and capabilities to its various legacy networks. These efforts were critical in helping OPM to identify the recent cybersecurity incidents," Schumach said.

## **WOLVES:**

### **Idaho won't kill packs in wilderness**

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Idaho has decided not to systematically kill wolves in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness this winter, drawing cheers from wildlife advocates who said the program violates the purpose of wilderness.

Idaho in early 2014 announced plans to reduce wolf numbers near the Middle Fork of the Salmon River by up to 60 percent over the next several years to bolster the region's population of elk, a valued species for area hunters.

But the effort faced legal resistance from environmentalists who argued that artificially suppressing wolf numbers within the 2.4-million-acre wilderness area violates the Wilderness Act, which requires that lands be managed in their natural state, "untrammeled by man."

In late 2013, Idaho Fish and Game hired local hunter-trapper Gus Thoreson to eliminate the Golden Creek and Monument Creek wolf packs within the Middle Fork -- which the agency had claimed were responsible for preying on too many elk. But the effort was called off in late January 2014 after Thoreson killed nine wolves, amid a firestorm of criticism from wolf and wilderness advocates that garnered national headlines.

Several months later, Idaho Fish and Game said it would not pursue wolf control in the wilderness during winter 2014-2015 (*E&ENews PM*, July 29, 2014). The department late last month told the Forest Service it would not be controlling wolves this winter either.

"We are relieved that it will be managed as a wild place with natural wildlife populations, rather than an elk farm, for at least the coming winter," said Earthjustice attorney Timothy Preso. "We will remain vigilant to ensure that wilderness values prevail for the long term."

Earthjustice represented the Western Watersheds Project, Wilderness Watch, the Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity in a lawsuit to stop the killings.

The Forest Service, which manages the wilderness, was named as a defendant in the lawsuit. Conservationists argue the agency violated the Wilderness Act when it allowed the state department to use its backcountry airstrips and cabin as a base for the operation.

A spokesman for Idaho Fish and Game could not be reached this morning.

The department last summer argued that wolves' impact on elk has been greater than the federal government had anticipated when the animals were reintroduced in central Idaho in the mid-1990s and that Idaho's support for designating the Frank Church wilderness was contingent on the value elk provide to hunters.

As of late 2014, there were an estimated 770 wolves in Idaho, up from 684 the year before, according to an Idaho Fish and Game [report](#). Idaho has had authority to manage wolves since the animals were removed from the federal endangered species list in 2011. The delisting rule requires Idaho not to let wolves drop below 150 animals or 15 breeding pairs for any three-year period.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES:

### Conservationists threaten to sue FWS over horned songbird

[Corbin Hiar](#), E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Four conservation groups yesterday warned the Fish and Wildlife Service that they would sue unless the agency increases federal protections for the streaked horned lark, a ground-dwelling songbird primarily found in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

Two years ago, FWS determined that the horned-lark subspecies, which sports hornlike feather tufts on its head and black streaks on its back, was "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act -- a designation that means it is at risk of extinction in the foreseeable future. At the same time, the agency issued a rule under Section 4(d) of the ESA that exempted all agriculture, chemical spraying and airport activities from the law's prohibitions on harming the lark ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 3, 2013).

The Center for Biological Diversity and three local conservation groups criticized that decision in a [statement](#) announcing their formal notice of intent to sue.

"Protecting the streaked horned lark under the Endangered Species Act means nothing if all of its threats are exempted from protection," said Noah Greenwald, the center's endangered species director. "The lark's 4(d) rule creates a loophole big enough for a combine or a 747. It seriously threatens the survival of these handsome, horned songbirds."

The [notice](#) argues that the 4(d) rule is "arbitrary and capricious and contrary to law" in part because it "fails to require the implementation of any conservation measures but authorizes a host of activities to occur throughout the limited remaining range of the species." For example, simply restricting mowing at airports during lark nesting seasons would help to restore the species, the conservationists said.

At the same time, the groups also claim the species is at imminent risk of extinction and therefore should be added to the endangered species list. Such a move would eliminate all of the 4(d) rule exemptions for the bird.

The conservationists gave FWS 60 days to address the issues laid out in the notice before they will consider filing a lawsuit.

The agency estimates that fewer than 1,610 streaked horned larks remain in the wild. The bird once ranged from southern British Columbia through Washington and Oregon but has lost 98 percent of its historical grassland range, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.

## NATURAL GAS:

### Forest Service questions proposed pipeline route

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

The proposed route for a natural gas pipeline across national forest land in Virginia and West Virginia has raised concerns among Forest Service officials.

Forest Supervisor H. Thomas Speaks Jr. submitted comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission questioning the "necessity" for the Atlantic pipeline to cut across 30 miles of the George Washington and Monongahela national forests.

The Forest Service does not authorize use of its forests "solely because it affords the applicant a lower cost or less restrictive location when compared to non-NFS lands," Speaks wrote.

Speaks also raised environmental concerns shared by many residents along the 550-mile route for the pipeline from Wetzel County, W.Va., in the Marcellus Shale region to the Southeast. Two opposition groups spawned by the proposal have questioned potential storage of hazardous materials on forestland, pollution or alteration of waterways, and habitat restoration after construction.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a \$5 billion collaboration among Dominion Resources Inc., Duke Energy Corp., EQT Corp. and NextEra Energy Inc. as Southeast utilities look to expand natural gas production in light of the Obama administration's crackdown on climate-change-causing emissions.

The Forest Service's comments are intended to help guide the energy companies' final report to the agency as the agency considers whether the pipeline is a "suitable use" in the national forests, said Jennifer Adams, special project coordinator for the Forest Service (Steve Szkotak, [Associated Press](#), Aug. 5). -- DTB

## FISHERIES:

### Species evolve to evade nets -- study

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Trawlers' nets are helping drive evolutionary change in fish populations, according to a study.

Findings published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* journal were based on repeated simulations of trawl fishing using schools of wild minnows to investigate the potential impact of selective harvest by humans -- a factor in evolution across the animal kingdom -- on populations.

"There were some fish that were consistently captured by trawling, and there were some that were never captured," said lead author Shaun Killen of the University of Glasgow.

Researchers determined that a fish's ability to evade the nets was greatly influenced by its physiology. Fish capable of swimming in quick bursts were less likely to be caught in trawlers' nets.

"The fish that were most able to escape a simulated trawl were the ones that were really good anaerobic athletes," Killen said. "If you think about Olympic athletes, sprinters will be the ones that have a really good anaerobic capacity, whereas the long-distance runners will be more aerobic."

According to Killen, a growing body of evidence suggests that heavily fished populations seem to mature earlier and smaller. Selecting for faster fish that need more energy to stay out of nets could have a negative impact, like diminishing reproduction.

"Many other factors need to be considered, but there is a reason why some fish were better swimmers than others," Killen said. "But what will the trade-off be?" (Mark Kinver, [BBC News](#), Aug. 6). -- DTB

## **NATIONAL PARKS:**

### **Bison gorings hit 15-year high in Yellowstone**

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Five Yellowstone National Park visitors -- the most in at least 15 years -- have learned a dangerous lesson about bison: Get too close to a bull bison, and you get the horns.

Park rangers are handing out graphic fliers depicting a man being flung skyward by a bull, but visitors keep breaking the park's rule against getting within 25 yards of a bison ([Greenwire](#), June 4).

"I do wonder if [social media] makes people more willing to take a risk to get a picture," said park spokeswoman Julena Campbell. "It's a bragging rights kind of thing. But it's not worth your life or physical safety."

Three incidents involved some sort of photography, including the most recent, when 43-year-old Brandi Burgess, from Mississippi, was charged and struck by a bison just seconds after snapping a selfie with her daughter within 6 yards of the animal.

The park's public affairs office have dealt with 19 bison-human incidents since 2000, with 2009's three encounters setting the previous record.

According to a 2003 report in *Yellowstone Science*, bison have proved to be Yellowstone's "most dangerous" animal, a title many think belongs to grizzly bears. Bison struck people 79 times between 1980 and 1999, including one year with 13 incidents.

Officials hope recent national media attention spurs a change as bison mating season approaches.

"The bulls have all these hormones raging through their body," Campbell said. "They're always unpredictable, but that makes them more unpredictable."

Despite efforts to spread the word, getting the horns has unfortunately often proved the only way some learn.

"I thought I had a healthy respect for wildlife, but maybe not as healthy as I should have had," Burgess said after her attack. "But I am very grateful and blessed to have walked away" (Luke Ramseth, [Idaho Statesman](#), Aug. 5). -- DTB

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES:**

### **DOJ, 50 parties settle case to restore Wash. salmon habitat**

Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

More than 50 parties today agreed to restore key salmon habitat in Washington state that was sullied by chemical and hazardous waste pollution, the Justice Department said.

Under the settlement submitted to federal court, the parties will spend more than \$1 million ensuring that White River habitat near Tacoma and Seattle will be preserved.

The White River is one of the state's most important watersheds for imperiled salmon and steelhead. The project will reopen 121 acres of floodplain for the salmon, which will also mitigate flood risks for nearby communities.

"Through this settlement, we are again demonstrating our commitment to protecting and restoring vital natural resources in the Northwest, which will result in lasting benefits to people and their environment," Assistant Attorney General John Cruden said in a statement.

The parties in the settlement are various companies, individuals and some government agencies that own, or previously owned, facilities that released chemical wastes and other substances like cadmium and lead into the Thea Foss and Wheeler-Osgood waterways in Tacoma's Commencement Bay.

Specifically, the settlement includes a levee project that will protect rearing habitat for the salmon and steelhead in the Lower White River.

## **NATIONAL PARKS:**

### **National Mall gunshot leads to charges**

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

A Washington, D.C., man was charged with trying to elude law enforcement after a gun was fired inside a car on the National Mall on Tuesday, according to U.S. Park Police.

Sgt. Lelani Woods said in a news release yesterday that Maurice Holmes, 30, was driving a car between the World War II Memorial and the Tidal Basin when an argument occurred among several passengers. At least one shot was fired.

No injuries were reported, but the rear passenger-side window was shattered, Woods said.

The gun was found a mile away by police ([Associated Press](#), Aug. 6). -- DTB

## **WILD HORSES:**

### **Groups urge court to block Ariz. roundup**

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Arizona conservationists sought a temporary restraining order yesterday in a bid to block the Forest Service from rounding up around 100 wild horses on public land.

Lawyers for the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group said they were seeking the order to prevent federal officials from violating rules meant to protect horses in the Tonto National Forest, 75 miles north of Phoenix.

The Forest Service filed a public notice of intent seeking to remove the horses, effective tomorrow. The horses would be impounded and auctioned off, the Forest Service said.

"We are filing this to protect not only the horses, but our Western heritage that dates back hundreds and hundreds of years," attorney Bill Miller said.

Forest Service spokeswoman Carrie Templin said the horses need to be removed for their and the public's safety amid a heavy stream of visitors and vehicles. She said no date has been set for starting the roundup.

"Over time we're going to have more issues with horses, highways and people all being there at the same time," Templin said (David Schwartz, [Reuters](#), Aug. 5). -- **SP**

## **EPA:**

### **Watchdog probing misuse of religious time off**

[Robin Bravender](#), E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

U.S. EPA's watchdogs are digging into complaints about employees' potential misuse of religious compensatory time.

The inspector general's office this week informed top agency officials that it's conducting an audit surrounding EPA's procedures for allowing employees to take time off for religious purposes.

The office received a complaint on its hotline about the potential misuse of religious time off, Inspector General Arthur Elkins told House lawmakers earlier this year in a congressional hearing about EPA management.

Federal employees are allowed to take time off for religious purposes and to work extra hours to make up for that time.

The office plans to issue a final report on its findings late this summer, Elkins told lawmakers.

## **FEDERAL WORKFORCE:**

### **Obama may force contractors to give employees paid sick leave**

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

President Obama is mulling an executive order that would mandate paid sick leave for federal contractors, two officials familiar with his deliberations said.

The executive order would require companies doing business with the federal government to permit employees to earn at least seven days of paid leave per year. Staff would then be able to use those days if they are sick or caring for sick relatives.

Obama has pushed Congress to pass legislation granting paid leave, but not enough lawmakers have been interested in the idea.

Workers would also be able to use the leave to obtain preventive care or handle domestic violence situations.

"At this time, no final decisions have been made on specific policy announcements," the Labor Department said in a statement (Josh Lederman, [Associated Press](#), Aug. 5). – **SP**

## **ALABAMA:**

### **State Senate props up park system with Forever Wild funds**

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

The Alabama Senate yesterday approved a bill to strip all funding from the state's Forever Wild Land Trust program and use it to prop up the state park system.

The 32-1 vote moved to amend the state constitutional amendments that created the Forever Wild program, which was approved and extended by 75 percent of Alabama voters in 2012 ([Greenwire](#), June 3, 2011). The program uses 10 percent of the interest earnings from Alabama's oil and gas royalties to purchase and preserve popular outdoor recreation spots statewide.

The bill now heads to the Alabama House of Representatives, and if it's approved there by at least a three-fifths majority, it will head to the ballot for a popular vote.

The amendment would permanently damage the popular Forever Wild program, said Conservation Alabama Executive Director Tammy Herrington.

"Alabamians want public lands for hunting as well as state parks, and this bill pits the two programs against each other," she said. "This is a false choice, not a solution" (Dennis Pillion, [Birmingham News](#), Aug. 5). -- **BTP**

## **CALIFORNIA:**

### **Commission OKs bobcat-trapping ban**

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

California will be the first state to ban commercial and sport trapping of bobcats after the Fish and Game Commission voted 3-2 yesterday to approve the new policy.

Though the bobcats' pelts can fetch hundreds of dollars, conservation groups have blasted the practice as cruel.

The commission previously took action to ban so-called predator derby contests that award prizes for killing animals, such as coyotes, which aren't normally subject to hunting regulations.

Camilla Fox, who heads the group Project Coyote, which campaigned for the ban, said the change showed California was leading the way at predator conservation and stewardship.

But Hector Barajas, a spokesman for the California Trappers Association, said the move would only empower animal-rights extremists.

Barajas said the commission should have first completed a survey of bobcat populations, as was contemplated in a 2013 state law that ended trapping adjacent to national and state parks, refuges and other sites (Laura Zuckerman, [Reuters](#), Aug. 5). -- **SP**

## **UTAH:**

### **'Offensive' canyon name to remain unchanged**

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Officials this week rebuffed a push to change the name of a southern Utah canyon deemed offensive by some to African-Americans.

The Grand County Council voted 4-3 on Tuesday to not change the name of Negro Bill Canyon, named for a black cowboy whose cattle grazed there in the 1870s.

Councilwoman Mary McGann had pushed the effort amid increased scrutiny nationwide of the Confederate flag, saying the name of the Moab, Utah, canyon was offensive and outdated ([Greenwire](#), July 31).

Opposing the effort was Jeanetta Williams, president of the Salt Lake City chapter of the NAACP, who said the name isn't offensive and is a point of pride since it makes clear the canyon is named for a black historical figure, William Granstaff.

Grand County Councilman Lynn Jackson voted to keep the name that he says is supported by longtime residents who feel their history slipping away.

"It's part of the history of Moab -- good, bad, unsavory, whatever," he said (Lindsay Whitehurst, [Associated Press](#), Aug. 5). -- **BTP**

## **OHIO:**

### **State EPA answers student's smog questions, snubs reporter**

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Only two people -- a high school student and a reporter -- showed up to a public hearing yesterday on Ohio's plan to curb air pollution, but Ohio EPA officials were allowed to talk to only one of them.

While all participants were sitting at the same table, the reporter was forced to filter questions through two agency public relations officers, who cut off one Ohio EPA staffer's response to a question, while the student on a school assignment spoke directly to the officials who helped craft the plan for addressing air-quality issues in Ohio.

The reporter was told by James Lee, spokesman for Ohio EPA, that talking to the media is not part of the job for EPA employees outside the public affairs office. EPA has long restricted media access to state employees and scientists.

Lead agency spokeswoman Heidi Griesmer, who was not in attendance yesterday, said the employees were not allowed to speak to the reporter because they were not the lead writers on the plan.

Yesterday's hearing was one of the final steps leading up to the submission of Ohio's bid to reduce smog-causing emissions in order to comply with federal Clean Air Act standards (Laura Arenschiold, [Columbus Dispatch](#), Aug. 6). -- DTB

## CLEAN POWER PLAN:

### National Mining's Quinn previews legal strategy following rule rollout

Published: Thursday, August 6, 2015

How will changes to Building Block 1 of the Clean Power Plan and a lowering of standards in U.S. EPA's rule for new sources affect future growth for the coal industry? During today's OnPoint, Hal Quinn, president of the National Mining Association, discusses the impact of the rules on his industry and previews his organization's plans for fighting the Clean Power Plan in the courts.

[Click here](#) to watch today's OnPoint.

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	If you haven't checked it out, <a href="#">E&amp;E's updated Power Plan Hub</a> features revised state goal information, Clean Power Plan fact sheets and summaries of reactions from political leaders, state officials and industry interests. <a href="#">Go to</a> E&E's Power Plan Hub.
CLIMATEWIRE — Fri., August 7, 2015	
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<b>1. POLITICS:</b>	
<b><u>Most Republican candidates steer clear of climate change and what to do about it</u></b>	
Republican candidates called the government "stupid" during their first debate, had testy exchanges on civil liberties, and said pimps and prostitutes are collecting public benefits. But they had nothing to say about the nation's landmark climate plan introduced earlier this week.	
<b>2. RENEWABLE ENERGY:</b>	
<b><u>Infant U.S. wave-to-energy industry looks to build more testing facilities</u></b>	
In the wave energy world, progress means having "steel in the water." Now that gadgets are graduating from mere prototypes to pre-commercial machines, their engineers must find the best places to try them out in the open ocean.	
TODAY'S STORIES	
<b>3. ADAPTATION:</b>	
<b><u>Flood protection plans by wealthy nations may work poorly in the long run -- study</u></b>	
<b>4. REGIONS:</b>	

**Caribbean's largest oil and gas producer promises to slash GHGs**

**5.TRANSPORTATION:**

**EPA, NHTSA hold first public hearing on big vehicle emissions**

**6.NATIONS:**

**How Australia's climate policy flip-flopped over 25 years of 'political football'**

**7.ARCTIC:**

**Sea ice predicted to be 'pretty darn low' in August**

**8.RENEWABLE ENERGY:**

**France launches landmark testing process for floating offshore wind projects**

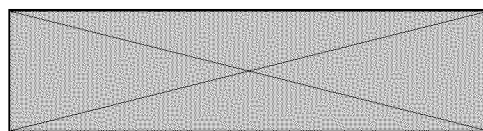
**9.RESEARCH:**

**Recent studies highlight dire climate change scenarios**

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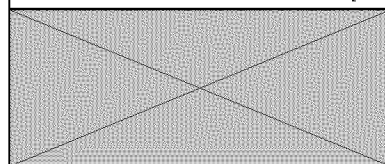
**10.WATER POLICY:**

**Greenwire's Snider talks leaked memos, future of legal and congressional action**



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**ENERGYWIRE — Fri., August 7, 2015**



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**A mighty optimistic wind estimate fuels EPA rule**

A strong, sustained growth of U.S. wind power, a cornerstone of the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, is achievable but faces stiff economic and political headwinds, according to government and private analyses.

ELECTRICITY

**2.UTILITIES:**

**Mississippi Power in 'financial crisis' over coal-gasification project**

**3.GRID:**

**Triple-digit temps set record for Texas hourly demand**

**4.DISASTERS:**

**Calif. utility wants to bill customers for wildfire expenses**

OIL AND GAS

**5.LAW:**

**Court throws wrench in W.Va. pipeline plans**

**6.LAW:**

**Pa.'s tough-on-industry AG faces criminal charges**

**7.GAS EXPORTS:**

**Draft environmental decision could move Ore. project out of limbo**

8.OIL BY RAIL:

**Focus on train-accident prevention, report says**

9.PEOPLE:

**SandRidge names replacement for retiring CFO**

10.REFINING:

**Crude by rail brings reversal of fortune for Philly facility**

11.BAKKEN SHALE:

**Boomtown's sewage drops -- a sign of dwindling population**

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12.WATER POLICY:

**Greenwire's Snider talks leaked memos, future of legal and congressional action**

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